

U.S. Application Ser. No. 09/873,316
Amendment dated June 28, 2006
In Response to Office Action of February 28, 2006

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-9, 11-15 and 17 are pending. Claims 1, 3-9, 11-15 and 17 stand rejected. Applicant has amended each pending independent claim, has cancelled claims 7 and 8 without prejudice, and has added new dependent claims 18-23.

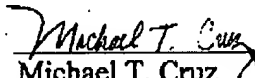
It is respectfully submitted that claims 1, 3-6, 9, 11-15 and 17-23 are in condition for allowance.

Despite the addition of new dependent claims, the total number of claims pending is (20) twenty. Accordingly, it is believed that no excess claim fee is due.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge additional fees or credit overpayments to the deposit account of McAndrews, Held & Malloy, Account No. 13-0017.

Dated: June 28, 2006

Respectfully submitted,


Michael T. Cruz
Reg. No. 44,636

McAndrews, Held & Malloy, Ltd.
500 West Madison Street, 34th Floor
Chicago, Illinois 60661
Telephone: (312) 775-8084
Facsimile: (312) 775-8100